

Services Foundation works to support the American military community. President Driscoll knows personally the sacrifice these men and women make, as her husband is on active duty in Iraq today, fighting to protect American families in the war on terror.

Along with military appreciation events held throughout the United States, the Armed Forces Foundation coordinates care packages for troops deployed and offers travel assistance for families visiting wounded soldiers. Additionally, they give away thousands of turkeys every year for Thanksgiving and gift certificates for military children at Christmas time.

I ask all of my colleagues to join me in thanking the Armed Forces Foundation for their service to those who defend freedom.

In conclusion, may God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

MISSING COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

(Mr. MEEKS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning wondering where is the Commander in Chief?

Our wartime President is missing in action. Our troops are being killed because of a lack of proper planning; and as one of the worst scandals involving our military is uncovered, George W. Bush is in Ohio flipping pancakes, and in Michigan, of all places, riding in a \$1 million bus made in Canada.

Where is our leadership from our President? It is AWOL.

As the Bush campaign smear machine continues to attack and distort JOHN KERRY's decorated Vietnam service record, which includes a Silver Star, a Bronze Star, and three Purple Hearts, George Bush wants the American people to believe that he actually has a military record to be proud of. That is as believable as when the Commander in Chief landed on the deck of an aircraft carrier pretending to be a soldier.

Perhaps the President's smear machine can explain where George Bush was the year he was missing during his military service, and his clear absence of leadership as a President, instead of cooking up phoney attacks on a decorated war hero like JOHN KERRY.

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ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KOLBE). The Chair would remind Members to avoid personal references to the President of the United States.

UPHOLD THE REPUTATION OF THE GREAT AMERICAN FIGHTING MAN

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, what happened at Abu Ghraib prison in Baghdad was a disgrace, and it grieved the heart of every American who saw it, grief for the families of the Iraqis incarcerated who had endured the indignities and grief for the American soldiers, not those involved. Those involved must and will be held to the strictest account.

It grieved me to hear, as someone who has traveled to Operation Iraqi Freedom twice, I have been at Camp Victory in Baghdad. I have been at Talil Air Base in southern Iraq. I have walked among our soldiers on aircraft carriers and on the ground. They are honorable men and women who each and every day put their lives on the line in a dignified and respectful way as American soldiers ever and always have.

It is for their reputation that I grieve today and why I call on this administration and our own military to put our house in order, hold those to account, uphold the great reputation of the American fighting man.

CONGRATULATING 2004 NATIONAL CHESS CHAMPS

(Mr. WEINER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, Edward R. Murrow High School is known for a great many things, not the least of which is producing the only two truly talented members of the Weiner family, my brothers Jason and Seth; but this year they are also known as the 2004 national chess champs, defeating over 150 schools, 300,000 student. This goes with their dynasty-building wins in 1992, 1993 and 1994, under the excellent coaching of Eliot Weiss.

We have to recognize they do belong in the pantheon of dynasties, as they defeated every school in the country and are soon going to be taking on those in this world. And as soon as NASA makes it possible, I am sure they will defeat teams from other planets.

Let me read the roll call of this great team: Salvijus Bercys, Dimitry Minevich, Olga Novikova, Alex Lidnerman, Ilya Kotlyanskiy, Oscar Santana, Willy Edgard, and Niles Smith. There is a reason they call this team the Brooklyn Kings. We offer them our congratulations.

THOMAS FARIA: MORE THAN THREE DECADES OF SERVICE TO THE RIGHT TO WORK CAUSE

(Mrs. MUSGRAVE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Thomas Faria was a Connecticut businessman who contributed to the efforts

of the National Right to Work Committee. In 1977, he sent a letter to committee president Reed Larson offering his services as a member of the board of directors.

He wrote: "Although I have supported the National Right to Work Committee for a number of years because of my strong belief in individual freedom, I did not really appreciate the clout of union political power until I worked on trying to close loopholes in Connecticut's unemployment compensation law. I would like the opportunity to do more in the area of right to work as I feel America's future depends upon it."

Fortunately, Reed Larson took up Mr. Faria on his offer. Mr. Faria joined the board of directors of the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation shortly thereafter.

The right to work principle, the guiding concept of the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation and one of the guiding principles of Thomas Faria's work, affirms the right of every American to work for a living without being compelled to belong to a union. The National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation gives legal assistance to employees who have been victimized.

I rise today to applaud Mr. Faria's efforts and the National Right to Work Committee with whom he served.

CINCO DE MAYO 2004

(Mr. RODRIGUEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, today is Cinco de Mayo. We celebrate the tenacity and the perseverance of the untrained and outnumbered Mexican forces that successfully fought for independence against the sophisticated French Army of Maximilian in 1862.

Across the Nation, we will be celebrating the turning points of this particular war as Mexican Americans in this country, and it is important for us to look at in this country the importance of this particular war to this country.

The writings of Harry Carr in the 1930s talk about the fact that during that particular time in 1860, during our own Civil War in this country, Maximilian had gone into Mexico with the intent of not only taking Mexico but moving on to the north. We are pleased also to indicate for those of my colleagues in this country to also know that the one who won the battle in Puebla was a Texan, was Ignacio Zaragoza Seguin who came out of Goliad, Texas, and was able to be victorious there in that battle in Puebla.

So as we celebrate the Cinco de Mayo, we are proud to have that interwoven with this country and Mexico.